

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15-24, 27, 28, and 30-33 are all the claims pending in the application. By this amendment, new claims 32 and 33 have been added.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Correspondence Address

As an initial matter, Applicant respectfully requests the PTO to correct the correspondence address to that of Sughrue Mion, PLLC (Customer No. 23373) in view of the Power of Attorney filed on December 12, 2007.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on April 1, 2008, in which the rejections of claims 1-4 were discussed. Although agreement was not reached, Applicant hopes that that this amendment will place the application in condition for allowance.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 5-13, 15-24, 27, 28 and 30 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to rejoin these claims when a generic, linking claim has been allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irish (US 4,324,511) in view of Cedergren (US 4,273,478).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irish in view of Cedergren, and further in view of Wuthrich (US 4,470,730).

Claim 1

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite the feature from original claim 1 that a *shutter is movably mounted to the lid*, the shutter being adapted to move between an open position and a closed position in which the aperture is blocked.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 at least because claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of any reasonable combination of Irish, Cedergren, and Wuthrich. For example, there is no reasonable combination of Irish, Cedergren, and Wuthrich that would meet all of the recitations of the claimed carrier including (2) a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, the lid including an aperture adapted to allow documents to be inserted into the cavity, and (2) a shutter is movably mounted to the lid, the shutter being adapted to move between an open position and a closed position in which the aperture is blocked.

The Examiner asserts that Irish's closed end section 26 corresponds to the recited lid and that the aperture 45 corresponds to the recited slot.¹ The Examiner acknowledges that Irish does not disclose a shutter mechanism for opening/closing the aperture. Therefore, the Examiner looks to the flip lid 17 of Wuthrich.

However, there is no reason why one of ordinary skill would have provided Wuthrich's flip lid 17 at Irish's closed end section in view of the fact that Irish's aperture 45 is provided for pressure equalization and, thus, should always remain open.²

¹ See Irish at FIG. 1.

² See Irish at 4:61-65.

Moreover, Wuthrich's flip lid 17 also is not provided at an end of the carrier tube 1, which includes the head members 2 where paper money bundle 23 is inserted. Instead, Wuthrich's flip lid 17 is merely provided at a chamber 15 for carrying coins that is at a side of the tube 1,³ and there is no reason to provide a lid at one of the head members 2.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1.

Claims 2-4 and 31

Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2-4 and 31 at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

In addition, Applicant has added new dependent claims 32 and 33, which recite a biasing member and structures of the opening and closing mechanisms, in order to provide additional claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

³ See Wuthrich at FIG. 1.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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